In the Claims:

Please enter the amended claim set as follows:

1. **(Currently amended)** A computer-based method for implementing a system for automatically producing an individualized learning sequence in a subject area to a user for addressing a skill gap between a skill level of the user and a skill level desired to be possessed, the method comprising the steps of:

entering into a first electronic database a skill level currently possessed by a user in at least one skill in a predetermined subject area;

comparing the possessed skill level with a skill level desired to be possessed by the user in the at least one skill;

determining from the comparing step a skill gap between the possessed skill level and the desired skill level;

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mapping the skill gap with at least one course having an entry in a second electronic database to fill the skill gap; [[and]]

selecting between the steps of:

automatically creating a set of training interventions to be recommended to the user, the set containing the at least one mapped course; and

permitting an administrator to review the at least one mapped course and, if desired, to manually select the at least one mapped course for including in a set of training interventions to be recommended to the user; and

presenting the user with a training regimen comprising the ~~at least one mapped course~~ set of training interventions.

2. **(Currently amended)** ~~The method recited in Claim 1, wherein the entry for each course in the second electronic database comprises~~ A computer-based method for implementing a system for automatically producing an individualized learning sequence in a subject area to a user for addressing a skill gap between a skill level of the user and a skill level desired to be possessed, the method comprising the steps of:

entering into a first electronic database a skill level currently possessed by a user in at least one skill in a predetermined subject area;

comparing the possessed skill level with a skill level desired to be possessed by the user in the at least one skill;

C9 determining from the comparing step a skill gap between the possessed skill level and the desired skill level;

mapping the skill gap with at least one course having an entry in a second electronic database to fill the skill gap, the entry comprising a skill level achievable with the use of the course and a prerequisite skill level by: ~~, and the mapping step comprises the steps of:~~;

locating a first course in the second database having a prerequisite skill level less than or equal to the possessed skill level;

adding the first course to the training regimen;

if the first course achievable skill level is less than the desired skill level, locating a second course in the second database having a prerequisite skill level less than or equal to the first course achievable skill level and further having an achievable skill level greater than the first course achievable skill level; and

adding the second course to the training regimen[[.]]; and

presenting the user with the training regimen.

3. **(Original)** The method recited in Claim 1, wherein each course entry further comprises a natural language description of the course.

4. **(Currently amended)** The method recited in Claim 3, further comprising the step, preceding the comparing step, of entering a natural language description of the at least one skill in the predetermined subject area, and wherein the mapping step comprises the steps of:

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matching words in the natural language descriptions of the mapped course in the second database and of the at least one skill in the predetermined subject area; and

ranking each course having at least one matching word with the description of the at least one skill in the predetermined subject area for probable relevancy.

5. **(Currently amended)** The method recited in Claim 4, further comprising the steps, prior to the matching step, of:

tabulating each word in the natural language description of the mapped course;

tabulating a number of occurrences of each word in the natural language description of the mapped course;

comparing each word in the natural language description of the mapped course with a list of words that should be skipped;

assigning a null weighting value to each word that should be skipped as determined by the each word comparing step;

assigning a weighting value to each nonskipped word; and

the ranking step comprises using each matching word and the weighting value of each matching word to determine a score indicative of the probable relevancy.

6. (Original) The method recited in Claim 5, wherein tabulating steps further comprise:

tabulating each word phrase in the natural language description of the mapped course; and

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tabulating a number of occurrences of each word phrase in the natural language description of the mapped course; and wherein:

the word matching step comprises matching word phrases in the natural language descriptions of the mapped course in the second database and of the at least one skill in the predetermined subject area;

the weighting value assigning step further comprises assigning a weighting value to each word phrase; and

the ranking step further comprises using each matching word phrase and the weighting value of each matching word phrase to supplement the score indicative of the probable relevancy.

7. **(N w)** The method recited in Claim 4, wherein the ranking step comprises:

multiplying a count of each matching word by a predetermined weighting value to calculate a weighted value for each matching word;

summing the weighted values for all the matching words to obtain a score;

ordering the at least one course according to the scores thereof; and

imposing a predetermined limit for the score above which a course is mapped for possible inclusion in the training intervention set.

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8. **(New)** The method recited in Claim 1, further comprising the step, prior to the mapping step, of permitting an administrator to set mapping criteria.

9. **(New)** The method recited in Claim 8, wherein each course entry in the second database comprises a plurality of metadata elements, at least one of which comprises a natural language entry, and wherein the permitting step comprises receiving from the administrator a selection from among the metadata elements for consideration in the mapping step.